

Academy.)—The animal above is of a uniform dark olive colour ; an irregular row of small yellowish spots is observed upon the sides of the body near the dorsum ; several are also seen upon the neck, the upper part of the tail, and also the posterior extremities in the specimen examined. The under part of the animal is light olive.

Dimensions.—Length of head $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines ; greatest breadth 6 lines ; length of neck and body to vent 1 inch 11 lines ; length of tail 2 inches 1 line ; total length 4 inches 7 lines.

Hab. Monterey, Upper California. It is said to be abundant in that region.—*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. p. 126.

The Pine Tree of the Tenasserim Provinces. By the Rev. F. MASON.

Some twenty years ago the residents of Moulmain were not a little surprised to find, among the drift wood of the Salwen, a log of some coniferous tree. This was the first intimation that any tree of the pine tribe grew on the borders of these provinces ; but whether it were of the genus *Pinus*, or *Abies*, or *Larix*, a pine, a fir, or a larch, did not appear. It was several years after this occurrence that one of our former commissioners told the writer he had offered a hundred rupees to any of the foresters who would bring down a spar of this tree. Spars have been subsequently brought down ; but it is believed that Captain Latter, the Superintendent of Forests in these provinces, is the first European who has visited the locality where the tree is indigenous ; and from specimens of the foliage and fruit, which he has brought away with him, it appears to be a new species of *Pinus*, that may be characterized thus :—

P. Latteri. Arbor 50–60 pedalis, cortice scabro, foliis geminis 7–8 uncialibus caniculatis serratis* scabriusculis, strobilis 4 uncialibus ovato-conicis, squamis rhombeis inermibus.

Hab. In provincia *Amherst* : in convalli fluvii *Thoungyeen*.

Descr. A tree of from 50 to 60 feet high or more, and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet or more in diameter. Sheaths of the leaves arranged spirally, tubular, membranous, 6 lines long. Leaves two from each sheath, equal, from 7 to 8 inches long, acute with a sharp point, convex on the back, slightly scabrous with eight rows, in pairs, of very minute thorns which produce a striated appearance, hollow on the under surface, serrated ; cones ovate-conical, nearly 4 inches long. Scales rhomboid, unarmed.

The flower is unknown ; a single ripe cone that had cast its seeds and a small branch being all the materials that have been furnished for description.

Specimens of the wood that have fallen under the writer's notice contain more resinous matter than any other species of Coniferæ he ever saw. It appears like woody fibre immersed in resin. The Karens make tar from the wood by a very simple process ; and large

* Lindley says of the order, "Leaves entire at the margins;" but these are certainly finely serrated ; and I find *P. excelsa* described with leaves "toothleted."

quantities of both tar and pitch might be manufactured in the forests, if a remunerative price could be obtained for the article.

This species has been named after Captain Latter, as the discoverer, because all our acquaintance with the tree has been derived from him, beyond the vague knowledge that a tree of the pine family existed somewhere on the banks of the Salwen. He reports it as growing with the Engben, which is a species of *Dipterocarpus* that is met on the sandy shores of the province of Tavoy, side by side with *Casuarina muricata*. This pine is not found west of the Donaw mountains, a part of an unbroken range of granite mountains that runs down from the falls of the Salwen to the old city of Tenasserim, and which here separates the valley of the Thoungyeen from the region watered by the Gyne and its tributaries. In a note to the writer, Captain Latter adds:—"In the valley of the Thoungyeen it is found growing on the raised central plateau of sandstone, mixed up with Engben trees; and in proportion as the elevation increases the Engben disappears. In the Lower Thoungyeen, towards the remotest parts of the valley, it is found on ranges of hills west of Theglar river. These are its sites on the British side of the Thoungyeen. On the Shan side of the river it is said to be more abundant, and appears to occupy the lower portion of the Tounngnyoo range, where the sandstone formation is more prominently developed. From the accounts of Burmese foresters, who have seen the pine forests on both sides of the river, the tree appears to be of a finer growth on the Shan side than on the British, where trees are to be found of *nine* feet in girth and proportionably tall. I should say that on the British side of the valley the tree ranges at an altitude of 1000 to 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, and that its latitude is about 17° north."

Possibly it may prove to be a known species; but it is not among the *twenty-two* species described by Loudon as the denizens of Great Britain, nor among the *twelve* species described by Michaux in his 'North American Sylva,' nor is it either of the Indian species described by Roxburgh. Should it however be a species described in some other work to which the writer in these "outskirts of civilization" has no means of access, some of the members of the Society will probably be able to point out the identity; and though then this note will be no contribution to science, it will still be a contribution to our knowledge of the resources of the Tenasserim provinces.—*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Jan. 1849.

Description of a new Helix and Streptaxis, from the Collection of
H. Cuming, Esq. By DR. L. PFEIFFER.

1. HELIX STRANGEI, Pfr. *H. testâ latè umbilicatâ, depressâ, solidiusculâ, supernè confertim costulato-striatâ, nitidâ, castaneo-corneâ, subpellucidâ; spirâ parùm elevatâ, obtusiusculâ; anfractibus 5 vix convexiusculis, ultimo subdepresso, basi sublævigato; aperturâ subobliquâ, lunato-ovali; peristomate simplice, recto, tenui, marginibus conniventibus.*

Diam. 24, altit. 10—11 mill.

From Brisbane Water, New South Wales (Mr. Strange).